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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 09/373,658 | 08/13/1999 | Luisa Iruela-Arispe | 1448.1070006 | 2817 |

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EXAMINER

CANELLA, KAREN A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1642

DATE MAILED: 01/14/2004

37

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/373,658

Applicant(s)

IRUELA-ARISPE ET AL.

Examiner

Karen A Canella

Art Unit

1642

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 24-37,46-68 and 77-85 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) 24-34,37,46-53,56-63,65-68,77-82 and 85 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 35,36,54,55,64,65,83 and 84 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 35.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-23, 38-45, 69-76 have been canceled. Claims 48 and 77 have been amended. Claims 24-37, 46-68, 77-85 are pending and under consideration.

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office Action

3. Claims 35, 36, 54, 55, 64, 65, 83 and 84 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for methods of making and using host cells in vitro, does not reasonably provide enablement for methods of making and using host cells in vivo. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

Claims 35, 54, 64 and 83 are drawn to hosts cells comprising the isolated polynucleotides of the instant invention. Claims 36, 55, 65 and 84 are drawn in part to methods of making said host cells by transfection. The specification contemplates the administration of METH1 and/or METH2 polynucleotide to patients in order to modulate angiogenesis (page 268-274). Thus, when given the broadest reasonable interpretation, the claims read on host cells which are comprised within a patient having under gone treatment with the instant polynucleotides which is commensurate with gene therapy. The specification is not enabling for gene therapy for the reason set forth below.

The instant specification does not teach how to overcome problems with in vivo delivery and expression with respect to the administration of the claimed nucleic acids or viral vectors comprising said nucleic acids. The state of the art is that in vivo gene delivery is not well developed and is highly unpredictable. For instance Verma et al (Nature, 1997, Vol. 389, pp. 239-242) teach that the Achilles heel of gene therapy is gene delivery. Verma et al state that the ongoing problem is the inability to deliver genes efficiently and to obtain sustained expression (page 239, column 3). Eck et al (Gene-Based Therapy, In: The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics, Goodman and Gilman, Ed.s, 1996, pp. 77-101) teach that the fate of the DNA vector itself with regard to the volume of distribution, rate of clearance into tissues etc., the in

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vivo consequences of altered gene expression and protein function, the fraction of vector taken up by the target cell population, the trafficking of the genetic material within cellular organelles, the rate of degradation of the DNA the level of mRNA produced, the stability of the mRNA produced in vivo, the amount and stability of the protein produced and the proteins compartmentalization or secretory fate within the cell are primary considerations regarding effective therapy. Eck et al state that these factors differ dramatically on the vector used, the protein being produced, and the disease being treated (Eck et al bridging pages 81-82).

As of the priority date sought, it was well known in the art how to infect or transfect cells in vitro or ex vivo with viral vectors. However, using viral vectors to deliver DNA to an organism in vivo, or using infected or transfected cells to deliver nucleic acids which encode a particular protein sequence to an organism in vivo is in the realm of gene therapy, and as of the priority date sought, highly unpredictable in view of the complexity of in vivo systems. Orkin et al state ("Report and Recommendation of the Panel to Assess the NIH Investment in Research on Gene Therapy", NIH, 1995) that clinical efficacy had not been definitively demonstrated with any gene therapy protocol (page 1, second paragraph). Orkin et al defines gene therapy as the transfer of DNA into recipient cells either ex vivo or in vivo (page 7, under the heading "Gene transfer"), thus encompassing the instant claims drawn to the administration of antigen presenting cells transfected or infected ex vivo. Orkin et al concludes that, "none of the available vector systems is entirely satisfactory, and many of the perceived advantages of vector systems have not been experimentally validated. Until progress is made in these areas, slow and erratic success in applying gene transfer methods to patients can be expected" Orkin et al comment that direct administration of DNA or DNA in liposomes is not well developed and hindered by the low efficiency of gene transfer (page 8, paragraph 5). Orkin et al teach that adequate expression of the transferred genes is essential for therapy, but that current data regarding the level and consistency of expression of transferred genes in animal models was unknown. Orkin et al states that in protocols not involving ex vivo infections/transfection, it is necessary to target the expression of the transferred genes to the appropriate tissue or cell type by means of regulatory sequences in gene transfer vectors. The specification does not teach a vector having a specific regulatory sequence which would direct the expression of the nucleic acids within the appropriate tissue type.

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The specification does not remedy any of the deficiencies or the prior art with regard to gene therapy. Given the lack of any guidance from the specification on any of the above issues pointed out by Verma or Eck or Orkin. One of skill in the art would be subject to undue experimentation without reasonable expectation of success in order to practice the methods of claims.

Amendment of the claims to recite "isolated" host cell would overcome this rejection.

4. All other rejections and objections as stated in the previous Office Action of Paper No. 29 are withdrawn in light of applicants amendments.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Karen Canella whose telephone number is (703) 308 8362. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 6:00 pm. A message may be left on the examiner's voice mail service. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Caputa, can be reached on (703) 308 3995. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308 0196.


Karen A. Canella, Ph.D.

Patent Examiner, Group 1642

01/12/04